GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2189
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2007
MONSOON FORECASTING SYSTEM
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Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has established the monsoon forecasting system in the country to forecast recurring droughts and floods;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) If not, the reasons therefore?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES(SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) Yes Sir

(b) Rainfall predictions based on the existing system of monsoon forecasting are provided in different temporal and spatial ranges in respect of extreme rainfall variations leading to floods and droughts. These are:

i) Short range rainfall predictions, upto 3 days, are generated daily for all 36 Meteorological sub-divisions in the country.

ii) Medium range rainfall predictions (3-7 days) are provided at agro-climatic zone level (cluster of districts) twice in a week through Agro-meteorological Advisory Service(AAS).

iii) Long range rainfall forecast for the southwest monsoon season (June-September) for the country as a whole and also for 4 homogeneous regions. The forecast is issued in 2 stages, first in April using data up to March and the second by end of June using data up to May.
The following efforts have been made to improve the accuracy of rainfall forecasts:

i) 125 automatic weather stations(AWS) have been made operational for monsoon season of 2007

ii) An improved numerical weather prediction model with 50Km resolution, has been implemented.

iii) Additional satellite observations are being assimilated in the numerical models for improving the forecast since May 2007

iv) A multi-model Man-Machine-Mix approach has been adopted for improving the forecast skill.
These initiatives have resulted in some improvement in the short and medium range rainfall forecasts. Further, densification of observation system by putting more Automatic Weather Stations (AWS), Automatic Rain Gauges (ARG), Doppler Weather Radars(DWR), improved upper air data acquisition system and acquisition of High Performance Computer (HPC) systems along with improved forecasting systems are planned under Modernization Plan of India Meteorological Department (IMD)

(c) Does not arise.